

and Bill Livingood's contributions are evident in what is, today, a much safer environment for lawmakers, staff and the public here on Capitol Hill.

As an added tribute to his good stewardship of this important job, Bill served under four speakers, both Democrat and Republican, starting with Speaker Gingrich, then Speaker Dennis Hastert, Speaker NANCY PELOSI and our current Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER. He and his office have been completely above reproach and non-partisan. To say that Bill Livingood is a consummate professional with a sterling reputation for honesty, integrity and class would be a fair way of describing the respect every Member of this House has for Bill.

Mr. Speaker, we are all indebted to Bill Livingood's stewardship and watchful eye over this historic chamber. As he prepares to leave the House in the coming weeks, I join my colleagues and the American people in offering him a hearty "job well done" and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR ITS TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee for his efforts to honor fallen military heroes from the Tampa Bay area. At the direction of Sheriff Gee, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has instituted a program to conduct honor escorts for every fallen hero from Tampa Bay who returns to Hillsborough County. To date, Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriffs have conducted 12 honor escorts for fallen heroes since the escorts were implemented in 2009. While that is 12 honor escorts too many, I am proud to represent a community with an institution as respectful and dignified as the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

At the direction of Sheriff Gee, and with the permission of the fallen hero's family, any fallen hero that arrives in Hillsborough County is escorted to any destination. These escorts involve multiple motorcycle deputies, patrol cruisers, and other Sheriff's vehicles, including members of the Sheriff's aviation unit, as the hearse and the family's vehicles are led through the county. Each family is given a copy of a DVD and photo album commemorating the escort to help them heal, remember, and recall that their loved one was a real American hero.

Many of us recall the unfortunate response that many of our veterans received upon their return from Vietnam. One of the great lessons of that tragedy was to always remember the sacrifices of the service member. As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services. Regardless of the politics of the conflicts that our country has engaged in over the course of the last decade, I am proud of and appreciative of the efforts

that Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office have taken to honor and respect our fallen heroes. Mr. Speaker, I salute the efforts of not only our brave men and women in uniform, but also that of Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriffs to honor their brothers and sisters in arms and to protect the safety and security of the citizens of Hillsborough County.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. PIERRE BEJJANI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Pierre Bejjani, the president of the Northeast Ohio Lebanese American Association, NOLAA, as he is honored by the American Nationalities Movement.

Mr. Bejjani was born in Lebanon and immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio 1981. He attended The Ohio State University where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He returned to Cleveland after graduating and began working as a construction manager. Mr. Bejjani started his own business in 1991. Today, he serves as the managing director/executive editor of Profile News Ohio and is the senior partner for Diversity Advertising Agency.

Mr. Bejjani has served the Cleveland community since the mid-1990s. He organized the first Annual Lebanon Day on November 22, 2011. He currently serves as the president NOLAA and vice president of the Cleveland American Middle East Organization. He is also on the boards of Worldwide Intercultural Network of Cleveland, Global Cleveland Initiative and the Recruiting Battalion of Northern Ohio.

As a result of his dedication to the community, Mr. Bejjani has been received numerous awards. He received NOLAA's Community Recognition Award in 2009. In 2010 he was the recipient of the Census 2010 Partnership Award. Mr. Bejjani was also recognized for his work on the U.S. Army Strength in Diversity Program in April, 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Pierre Bejjani and congratulating him on being this year's American Nationalities Movement's honoree.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICK CASE AUTOMOTIVE

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and constituent, Rick Case, who will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rick Case automotive in early 2012.

Rick discovered his true passion at an early age, selling used cars in high school from the front yard of his family home in Akron, Ohio. In 1962, he opened his first dealership, Moxie Motors, in Akron, followed by Sharp Used Cars in Barberton, Ohio in 1963.

Rick Case is as excited today about his business as he was 50 years ago and aggres-

sively seeks opportunities to grow the Rick Case Auto Group which currently encompasses 15 dealerships in Ohio, Georgia and Florida and employs more than 900 people.

Recognized as leaders in the auto industry, Rick and Rita Case have received numerous awards; including National Dealers of the Year by USA Today, Time and Sports Illustrated magazines, the American International Automobile Dealers Association and the National Automobile Dealer Association. Most recently Rick and Rita Case were the 2011 recipients of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award. Additionally, in 2012, they also became the first couple to ever win the American International Automobile Dealers Association David F. Mungenast National Lifetime Achievement Award.

Beyond running a successful business, Rick and Rita Case founded the Rick Case "Bikes for Kids" program in 1962 and have collected and donated more than 100-thousand bicycles to children in need in their community.

As Rick celebrates this incredible milestone, I am proud to support him here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and am honored to call him a friend.

POVERTY AND THE HALF IN TEN CAMPAIGN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at this holiday season, it is proper for us to pause and consider the major threat that poverty poses to our nation, and how the path we take to address that challenge will determine whether we succeed in improving America's long-term social, economic, and moral well-being.

Income inequality has risen sharply over the past 30 years. Since 1979, the gap in after-tax income between the wealthiest one percent and middle- and low-income quintiles has more than tripled. Adjusted gross income for working-class families has seen the least growth, and the economic collapse of 2008 put many out of work.

Last year, 49 million Americans—including almost 17 million children—lived in poverty. One in four children in America is considered "food insecure," sometimes going to bed hungry. That number is unconscionable. But poverty is not just a statistic—it impacts our families, neighbors, and communities in many ways.

Shirley G. is a Social Security beneficiary in Harwood Heights, Illinois, who suffers from severe asthma, diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure. On September 1, she learned that due to state budget shortfalls, she would have to pay out-of-pocket for her medications. Shirley elected to pay her basic health insurance, rent, gas, electric and telephone bills and NOT buy food. She signed up for a "meals on wheels" program to provide her with one meal per day and relies on a local food pantry for her remaining food needs. She was also forced to ration her medication. The unpredictability of food and medicine has wreaked havoc on her health and she cannot stabilize her asthma or diabetes.

Jack K. worked for decades as a taxi cab driver, but retired with very little wealth. He

now lives in subsidized housing and depends on soup kitchens and food pantries to stave off hunger.

Yesterday I met with two outstanding young people—Starnica Rodgers and Brandon Dunlap—who have struggled with homelessness their whole lives. During high school, both were what is called “unaccompanied homeless youth,” meaning they were underage and without a home.

Against those odds, both Starnica and Brandon are now thriving. Starnica is enrolled in college and is an expectant mother. Brandon is a college graduate with a good job and a bright future. Both are incredible success stories, but they are the exception to the rule—particularly in today’s economy. More common are the homeless to whom I passed out sandwiches on a recent cold Chicago night, working with the Night Ministry.

Too many Americans born in poverty don’t have the tools to escape it. And too many formerly middle-class Americans are falling into poverty. We must promote and protect affordable housing, nutrition assistance, good schools, and other services to enable everyone to have a chance at the American Dream.

We have a responsibility to reduce poverty so that no one has to make the choice between medication and heat, and so that every child has a place to call home and food to eat. We owe it to our constituents and our country to buffer existing social safety net programs so that Shirley, Jack, Starnica and Brandon can keep a roof over their heads and put food in their stomachs.

I am troubled with the vitriol that many public figures have directed at those struggling with poverty and at the programs that give them a chance to thrive. This is a time when all Americans need to help one another succeed.

The Half in Ten Campaign has set an ambitious but achievable goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years. I am an original cosponsor of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE’s Half in Ten Act, which would strengthen anti-poverty initiatives by creating a national plan to meet the goal of reducing poverty by 50 percent, eliminating extreme poverty, and eliminating child poverty over the next decade.

This task will be difficult. It will require an honest assessment of the successes and failures of our social safety net programs, and make recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of those programs. It will also seek solutions to the causes of poverty; income inequality, economic instability, lack of living wages, and lack of investment in low-income communities.

Poverty touches every community in America, and we should be able to formulate a robust, bipartisan solution to the crisis. I thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to come together in support of the Half in Ten Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, some have raised concerns about potential

ambiguities in section 2207 of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act and I wanted to provide clarification on some of these matters. It was asked whether section 2207 restricts the obligation of funds for contract modifications to ongoing projects or awarding minor supporting contracts required to complete projects that have already begun. First, it is not the intent of the bill to restrict the Department of Defense from modifying current contracts or awarding required ancillary contracts in support of active projects because those prior-year funds have already been obligated and therefore are not subject to the restrictions set forth in section 2207. We understand that minor additional obligations may be required to complete those previously authorized projects, and we do not object to such minor obligations as long as they are within the scope of the original authorizations.

Others have asked me, can the Department of Defense use any funding to continue planning and program management activities or begin new studies that will help inform or develop any of the five requirements that are outlined in section 2207 that must be met before further funds are obligated? The language in section 2207 is not indented to restrict the Department of Defense’s ability to use prior-year funding to conduct program management activities, planning and further studies or complete ongoing studies that will better inform or allow the Department to complete work on the five requirements that are called out in section 2207 of this bill. This provision is not intended to stop the military buildup, but there are questions that remain outstanding.

I am committed to working with the Gentelady from Guam to continue to address these issues regarding the stationing of Marine Corps forces on Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. William C. Mobley, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California San Diego. On December 8th, Dr. Mobley was awarded the International Sisley-Jerome Lejeune Prize, in Paris, France, for his therapeutic research on Genetic Intellectual Disabilities.

Dr. Mobley’s many contributions in the field of Down Syndrome have been truly valued in the special needs community. His research to identify causes of neurodegenerative disorders has brought new optimism to those afflicted with diseases from Alzheimer’s to Down Syndrome.

As the parent of a child with Down Syndrome, I understand first-hand the daily challenges that families are facing. We are the beneficiaries of Dr. Mobley’s important research and future generations will be enabled as a result.

Dr. Mobley has used his expertise to serve this Congress. As the expert advisor for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, Dr. Mobley has educated Members of Congress on this important issue, raising public awareness while advancing critical research.

This award is a well deserved recognition of his life’s work to eradicate debilitating neurological diseases and disorders. I applaud Dr. Mobley on his outstanding commitment to this vital research and look forward to a continuing partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Mobley. Because of his efforts, I know that those with Down Syndrome, and their families, will see easier days ahead. With Dr. Mobley’s work, we will one day see a world free of these devastating neurological disorders.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE “TEKO” WISEMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer this tribute to Janice “Teko” Wiseman, a native of Mobile, AL, who recently passed away at the age of 83. She spent her life in active service to her community and her family.

Married for 62 years, Teko and her husband, Dr. Hollis Wiseman, originally met as high school sweethearts.

During the 1960’s—a decade of turmoil in Alabama—Teko and Hollis set an example of courage and commitment to justice and the city they loved by founding ABLE (Alabamians Behind Local Education), an organization to help peacefully integrate the Mobile County schools. Although opposed by some political leaders at the time, the Wisemans stood fast and eventually saw their goals realized. Their efforts received international attention on a Voice of America broadcast.

In 1983, Teko helped found Keep Mobile Beautiful and worked as its coordinator for ten years. Her energy and creativity resulted in a beautification competition called No More Eyesore, which engaged residents from schoolchildren to bank presidents to clean up and beautify the ugliest eyesores around town. Other projects included planting the intersection of I-65 and I-10 and landscaping the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. Her impact on the city is visible to this day.

When they retired twenty years ago, Teko and Hollis moved to Fairhope, Alabama. There, Hollis, who had built the University of South Alabama Neonatal Intensive Care Unit named in his honor, became president of the Fairhope Library Board and spearheaded the drive to raise approximately seven million dollars to build the current state of the art library.

Meanwhile, Teko Wiseman turned her attention to the lack of sidewalks along the Bay and conceived a project to building a hike/bike trail beginning at the Battleship on the Causeway and extending along the Eastern Shore to Weeks Bay. The organization she founded in 1995 to realize this dream, the Eastern Shore Trailblazers, has raised over \$6.5 million through private donations and grants. The 32 mile trail is only two miles short of completion.

Mr. Speaker, Teko was a treasure to South Alabama and her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Hollis; her sister, Merrellyn Miller; their six children, Holly Wiseman, Merrell Wiseman, Valery De Laney, Carole Norden, Jay